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## PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

*Summary of work in Chinatown for the week ended December 19, 1903.*

The following is received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue, under date of December 21:

Buildings reinspected.....	231
Rooms.....	1,818
Persons inspected.....	2,098
Sick inspected.....	31
Sick prescribed for at Oriental Dispensary.....	11
Dead examined.....	6
Necropsies.....	2
Rats examined bacteriologically.....	53
Number showing pest infection.....	None
Places lined and disinfected.....	996
Times streets swept.....	3
Sewers flushed.....	12
Notices served to abate plumbing nuisances.....	12
Plumbing nuisances abated.....	7
Undergoing abatement.....	8
Total number of plumbing inspections.....	95

### REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

*Transactions on account of yellow fever at Laredo, Tex.*

The following telegrams have been received from Assistant Surgeon Frick, at Laredo, Tex.:

DECEMBER 15, 1903.

Would respectfully recommend and request authority to discontinue the special inspection and oiling of water containers, as being no longer necessary at this time. With this arrangement can reduce expenses about \$7 per day. Request authority to purchase 500 pounds of insect powder and 1 barrel wood alcohol. Hamilton says he will require about 6 pounds insect powder and half a gallon of alcohol daily in disinfecting Pullmans. [Authority was given as requested.]

DECEMBER 16, 1903.

New Laredo, Minera, and Cannel report nothing. Fumigated 45 houses, containing 204 rooms; 578 containers, 25 wells, 5 tanks, and 39 premises oiled, and 257 premises inspected. Temperature, 55° and 36°.

DECEMBER 17, 1903.

Doctor Moore states Cannel has had 4 cases since September 1, last case occurring four days ago. No report from Minera. New Laredo

to-day raised quarantine on Laredo and infected points in Mexico. Reports from Laredo should show 1 case on December 15, 3 on December 16, and 1 to-day. Temperature,  $63^{\circ}$  and  $52^{\circ}$ . Fumigated 55 houses, containing 183 rooms; 435 containers, 21 wells, 4 tanks, and 39 premises oiled, and 324 premises inspected.

DECEMBER 18, 1903.

New Laredo, Minera, and Cannel report nothing. Fumigated 52 houses, containing 234 rooms; 380 containers, 9 wells, 4 tanks, and 43 premises oiled, and 197 premises inspected. Temperature,  $72^{\circ}$  and  $58^{\circ}$ . One case suspected yellow fever and 1 case reported. Saw a large and lively swarm of mosquitoes in the open just about dark to-day.

DECEMBER 19, 1903.

Nothing to report Laredo, New Laredo, Minera, or Cannel. Fumigated 39 houses containing 161 rooms; 348 containers, 16 wells, 3 tanks, and 38 premises oiled; 177 premises inspected. Temperature,  $84^{\circ}$  and  $53^{\circ}$ , and small insects flying around freely. Texas to-day raised her quarantine against Monterey.

DECEMBER 20, 1903.

Laredo, New Laredo, Minera, and Cannel report nothing; 294 containers, 14 wells, 7 tanks, and 33 premises oiled; 162 premises inspected. Fumigated 54 houses containing 209 rooms. Special inspection and oiling of water containers discontinued after this date. Services of 5 employees discontinued. Infected premises are receiving attention which to some extent has interrupted the progress of systematic post-epidemic disinfection. Feel that another reduction of 5 or 6 employees can be made by the 24th. Request authority to make this further reduction. Temperature,  $68^{\circ}$  and  $37^{\circ}$ .

REPLY.

*Special inspection authorized to be discontinued.*

WASHINGTON, December 19, 1903.

FRICK, Laredo, Tex.:

Authorized to discontinue special inspection and oiling water containers, etc., recommended in your telegram 15th. It will be necessary to continue screening of fever cases and disinfection of infected premises, but you should recommend the early discontinuance of as many assistants as you can spare.

WYMAN.

*Influenza at Laredo.*

DECEMBER 21, 1903.

New Laredo, Minera, and Cannel report nothing to-day. A case was reported in fifth day, convalescent. Doubt correctness of some of the recent diagnoses made. Influenza apparently prevalent, which I believe is confusing some of our diagnosticians. Fumigated 78 houses containing 242 rooms. Temperature  $75^{\circ}$  and  $37^{\circ}$ . Goodman leaves for Norfolk to-morrow morning.

*Inspection at El Paso, Tex.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Alexander reports, December 15, as follows: Week ended December 12, 1903. Mexican Central passengers inspected, 180; Mexican immigrants inspected, 105; Syrians inspected, 6; Mexican laborers imported on board, 21; Chinaman inspected, 1; soiled linen imported for laundry disinfected, 352 pieces; immigrants and their children vaccinated, 9.

*Inspection at Laredo, Tex.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports, December 12, as follows: Week ended December 5, 1903. Passenger trains inspected, 7; passengers inspected, 212; immigrants inspected, 4; immigrants vaccinated, 3; Pullman coaches disinfected, 7.

Week ended December 12, 1903: Passenger trains inspected, 7; passengers inspected, 199; immigrants inspected, 7; immigrants vaccinated, 3; Pullman coaches disinfected, 7.

*Influenza at St. Louis, Mo.*

Surgeon Gassaway reports, December 14, as follows: There is a very decided increase in the number of cases of influenza in this vicinity. Two have been admitted within the last few days to this hospital, and several cases have appeared among the patients under treatment.

No peculiar features other than those previously reported from this station have been observed.

In these cases the onset is sudden, and the disease appears, principally, at least at first, to be confined to the nose and throat.

*The epidemic of typhoid fever at Butler, Pa.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,  
*Washington, December 16, 1903.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report, in obedience to instructions contained in Bureau letter of December 2, 1903, on typhoid fever at Butler, Pa. On account of illness contracted while on this duty, the report has been unavoidably delayed.

My instructions stated that I was simply to be an observer, to obtain facts necessary to answer inquiries from persons interested, and to definitely determine whether the disease prevailing in Butler was typhoid, and whether there was not also some other epidemic disease present.

I arrived at Butler on the morning of the 3d and at once called on the mayor, who stated that he was glad to see me and referred me to the secretary of the relief committee. I met Doctors Batt and McKee, representatives of the State board of health, and several of the local physicians. On account of the physicians not being required to report cases of typhoid fever, it was impossible to obtain accurate statistics; but from the returns collected by Doctor Batt I found that there were

1,123 cases of typhoid fever in the city on December 1, and 40 cases had been reported from the 1st to the 3d. Twenty-four deaths had occurred during November from typhoid. As showing the beginning of the epidemic and the increase in cases from week to week, the following list of cases, taken from the call book of one of the local physicians, is of interest:

	Cases
Under treatment, week beginning November 1 .....	1
Under treatment, week beginning November 8 .....	7
Under treatment, week beginning November 15 .....	19
Under treatment, week beginning November 22 .....	29
First five days, week beginning November 29 .....	40

I was enabled to see 61 cases in which the diagnosis of typhoid fever had been made. Some had only been sick three days and some as long as four weeks. I examined many of them most carefully and was able to arrive at the opinion that all were cases of typhoid fever of varying degrees of severity. I took blood from a number of cases with which to try the Widal test; some cases were only three days sick and others in the beginning of the fourth week. About 75 per cent gave a positive reaction, which percentage, I think, considering the mildness and early stage of some, is about the average usually found. None of the cases seen by me, in my opinion, was any other disease than typhoid, nor was I able to learn of any disease other than the usual diseases ordinarily prevailing.

I think a few words about the events leading to the epidemic and its continuance, while not covered by my instructions, might be of interest. The water supply of the town is furnished by a company which obtained its water previous to August 28 by damming the Conoquennessing Creek at Boydstown,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles above Butler. The water collected by this dam is brought to the outskirts of Butler in terracotta pipes, passed through a mechanical filter before entering the reservoir, whence it is distributed to the city. On August 28 the Boydstown dam was carried away, and the water company sunk a well in the creek near the filter and pumped water from this through the filter; but about the middle of September, on account of some repairs to the filter, water was pumped directly from the creek into the reservoir; this continued about one week.

A small stream known as Thorn Creek, which emptied into Conoquennessing Creek, was damned about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Butler after the breaking of the Boydstown dam, and water is now obtained from that source, after being passed through the filter.

About August 17 a case of typhoid fever occurred in a house located near the creek, about the site of the Thorn Creek dam. Three other cases soon after developed in the same place.

A few hundred yards above the intake above mentioned a small stream empties into Conoquennessing Creek. Near by a house is located, the water closet of which overhangs the stream. Since October 1 five cases of typhoid fever have occurred in this house.

From the above brief statement it will be seen that the stream from which the water supply is derived has been exposed to typhoid infection from two distinct sources.

A portion of Butler lies south of Conoquennessing Creek, and is chiefly supplied with water from artesian wells. Few cases of fever have occurred in this section, and I was informed only in persons who

had used the city water. With the precautions taken by the State and local authorities, I see no reason for its spread to other States.

Respectfully,

JOHN F. ANDERSON,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon  
and Assistant Director Hygienic Laboratory.*

Respectfully forwarded:

M. J. ROSENAU,  
*Director Hygienic Laboratory.*

*Statistical reports of States and cities of the United States—Yearly and monthly.*

CALIFORNIA—*Oakland*.—Month of November, 1903. Estimated population, 83,000. Total number of deaths, 90, including diphtheria 1, enteric fever 4, and 6 from phthisis pulmonalis.

*Sacramento*.—Month of November, 1903. Estimated population, 30,000. Total number of deaths, 41, including diphtheria 2, enteric fever, 1, and 4 from tuberculosis.

*San Diego*.—Month of October, 1903. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 19, including 6 from tuberculosis. Month of November, 1903. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 20, including enteric fever 1, and 4 from tuberculosis.

CONNECTICUT.—Reports to the State board of health for the month of November, 1903, from 166 towns having an aggregate estimated population of 939,608, show a total of 1,167 deaths, including diphtheria 25, enteric fever 17, measles 13, scarlet fever 4, whooping cough 3, and 117 from phthisis pulmonalis.

ILLINOIS—*Rockford*.—Month of November, 1903. Estimated population, 40,000. Total number of deaths, 31, including 6 from tuberculosis.

INDIANA—*Evansville*.—Month of November, 1903. Estimated population, 70,000. Total number of deaths, 71, including diphtheria 1, scarlet fever 1, and 11 from tuberculosis.

IOWA—*Keokuk*.—Month of November, 1903. Estimated population, 16,000. Total number of deaths, 11. No contagious diseases reported.

LOUISIANA—*New Orleans*.—Month of November, 1903. Estimated population, 310,000—white, 227,000; colored, 83,000. Total number of deaths, 618—white, 362; colored, 256—including diphtheria 6, enteric fever 2, scarlet fever 3, whooping cough 1, and 85 from tuberculosis.

MAINE—*Portland*.—Four weeks ended October 24, 1903. Estimated population, 53,500. Total number of deaths, 57, including 2 from tuberculosis.

MICHIGAN.—Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, for the week ended December 12, 1903, from 71 observers, indicate that neuralgia, diphtheria, cholera infantum, remittent fever, inflammation of